

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /200 W

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R 280611Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5764

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 5181

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, MY

SUBJECT: EC AND ASEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH MINISTER D'ESTAING GAVE DISCOURAGING ANSWER TO QUESTION OF ASEAN PINEAPPLE SALES IN EC DURING RECENT VISIT TO KUALA LUMPUR. INABILITY TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS PRODUCT LIKELY TO COMPEL ASEAN TO ADOPT MORE DIFFUSED STRATEGY TOWARDS EC. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY KARIM MARZUKI, FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING DID NOT RAISE PINEAPPLE ISSUE DURING RECENT VISIT. WHEN MALSYIANS ASKED
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HIM PRIVATELY D'ESTAING REPLIED THAT GOF WOULD NOT

RPT NOT RELAX OPPOSITION TO ENTRY OF MALAYSIAN PINEAPPLE TO EC ON FAVORABLE TERMS. MARZUKI ADDED THAT D'ESTAING BROUGHT NO GOOD NEWS TO OFFSET THE DECISION ON PINEAPPLE.

3. THIS NEGATIVE DECLARATION CONTRASTS WITH GUARDED OPTIMISM IN D'ESTAING'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. AFTER TELLING A PRESS CONFERENCE "I THINK SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT," D'ESTAING SAID THAT HE SAW "NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES" FOR PALM OIL BUT NOTED THAT "A SOLUTION" HAD TO BE FOUND FOR PINEAPPLE.

4. AS RESULT OF D'ESTAING'S COMMENTS MALAYSIANS VIEW PROSPECTS OF ASEAN DISCUSSION WITH EC EVEN MORE GLOOMILY THAN BEFORE. ASEAN SOLIDARITY HAS BEEN DOUBTFUL ALL ALONG AND INABILITY TO MAKE PROGRESS ON PINEAPPLE WILL RENDER INTEGRATED APPROACH GENERALLY LESS PROMISING. MFA BELIEVES ASEAN WILL "GO BACK TO DRAWING BOARD" AT COMING MID-DEC MEETING IN BANDUNG.

5. ALTHOUGH D'ESTAING'S BAD NEWS DAMPENED VISIT FOR OFFICIALS WHO WERE HOPING FOR MORE, FRENCH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION WHICH BROUGHT D'ESTAING TO KUALA LUMPUR WAS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. BY ALL ACCOUNTS FRENCH EXHIBITION MOST IMPRESSIVE COMPREHENSIVE DISPLAY YET SHOWN IN MALAYSIA. LIKE THE US, FRANCE RUNS SIZEABLE TRADE DEFICIT WITH MALAYSIA AND DESIRES TO CORRECT THIS "ABNORMAL SITUATION" THROUGH MAJOR COMMERCIAL EFFORT WHICH IT INAUGURATED WITH TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION. PRELIMINARY REPORTS SUGGEST SUBSTANTIAL ORDERS PLACED, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER RETURNS JUSTIFY COSTLY DISPLAY OF FRENCH INDUSTRIAL WARES. LYDMAN

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